

August 15.

## COMMISSION INVESTIGATING PONDS.

### Adaptability for Fish Culture One of the Results to be Obtained.

State House, Boston, Aug. 14.—The Massachusetts fish and game commission is at present carrying out an interesting investigation of the ponds of the state. The investigation which is being made under the supervision of the state biologist, is intended primarily to learn the nature of the ponds in the state and their adaptability for fish culture.

The work was started last year when six type ponds were placed under the observation of the several assistants of the state biologists with the intention of learning the conditions at each pond during the entire year. With the first investigation practically completed, the state was divided into districts and the work of completing the investigation of all the ponds in the state was started. Roy Stanley Corwin, an instructor in the geological department of Williams college, has charge of the work in the western part of the state. He has already made an extensive investigation of conditions of the ponds in this section.

The survey of the state ponds is for the purpose of obtaining all the data that can possibly be gathered as to their physical characteristics. In discussing his work in this vicinity Mr. Corwin stated that in each case he obtains as accurately as he can the approximate area of each pond, its name and its location as nearly as possible to the nearest railroad. This matter is of considerable importance for reference purposes, specially to the fish and game commission, when it is desired to obtain information relative to transportation facilities, when fish are to be transported for stocking purposes.

In addition to this information he also makes a record of the average and maximum depth of each pond, the color of the water and the nature of the shore. In reporting on the latter, a detailed report is made of the vegetation common along the shore line and also the nature of the shore. If the pond is fed by any streams or if it has an outlet the matter is carefully reported with sufficient data relating to the nature of the streams and their adaptability for spawning purposes.

The animal and plant life of each pond forms one of the most important features of the investigation since this information is essential where fish are to be maintained. In addition to the information gathered on animal

and plant life, the varieties of fish to be found in each pond is also noted.

The work of carrying on the investigation is most thorough. In each case the investigator takes soundings of the pond carefully, noting its depth at varying distances from shore and then drawing an outline map showing markings of the depth and also the shore vegetation. After the pond has been sounded the bottom and surface temperature of the water is also taken by means of a maximum and minimum thermometer. In securing information relative to the animal and plant life, a Plankton net is used. The net is made of bolting cloth and is conical in shape. This is dropped to the bottom of the pond and brought to the surface. Specimens of the water at various points in the pond are obtained. The water thus secured is placed in sealed bottles and sent to the state biological laboratories, where it is tested and a record made of its properties. Whenever it is possible, specimens of the fish in the pond are also secured and carefully examined with a view of learning just what the fish are feeding on. Whenever there is any source of pollution a careful record is also made.

## MADE ATTACK ON BOWERS.

### Senator Says Fish Commissioner Lobbied Against Fur Seal Treaty.

Charges that Commissioner George M. Bowers of the Bureau of Fisheries of the Department of Commerce and Labor had been "lobbying" in Congress in an effort to delay action on the bill which would give effect to a treaty negotiated between the United States, Great Britain, Japan and Russia, for the protection of fur seal and otter in the North Pacific, were made in the Senate yesterday by Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska.

He declared that Commissioner Bowers was under the influence of those interested in companies that had been given the privileges of killing seals in the Pribilof Islands and in this connection asserted that Bowers' appointment was the result of efforts of the late Senator Stephen B. Elkins of West Virginia, who in turn was financially interested in the North American Commercial Company which for many years held a government lease for the killing of seals.

Senator Lodge, who had charge of the Fur Seal bill, insisted that if there had been violations of the law they should be held against the government agents on the ground and not against Commissioner Bowers.

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## FISHERMEN'S MEMORIAL SERVICE.

Annual Exercises Will be Held at Blynman Bridge Tomorrow Afternoon.

Address Will be Given by Rev. T. J. Judge of Methodist Church.

The annual Memorial Service for lost fishermen under the auspices of the Gloucester Fishermen's Institute will take place tomorrow afternoon at Stage Fort Park, followed by a strewing of flowers on the water from Blynman bridge.

The directors and band will meet in Town hall square shortly before 3 o'clock, and it is hoped that the citizens in general will abide by Col. Charles F. Wonson's request and march in a body to the park where the exercises will be held.

Rev. Thomas J. Judge, pastor of the Prospect Street Methodist Episcopal church, will be the speaker of the day, while Rev. Gaius J. Slosser, financial agent, will make an invocation and Col. Wonson, president of the Institute, will also speak. Chaplain Henry Parsons will offer the prayer and the Company G band, L. M. Blythe, director, will furnish the music. Rev. Charles H. Williams, Ph.D., will act as president of the day.

The order of exercises is as follows:

March from Forbes School to Bandstand on Park.  
Music, "Shall We Gather at the River?"

"Safe in the Arms of Jesus."

Invocation .....

Rev. Gaius J. Slosser, Financial Agent

Reading of Roll of Dead .....

President of Institute

Music, "Vacant Chair."

Prayer ..... Chaplain Henry Parsons

Music, "I Am Praying for You."

Address, ..... Rev. Thomas J. Judge

Music, Hymn, "Sandon."

March to Blynman Bridge.

Music, "Stand Up for Jesus."

"The Home Over There."

Strewing of Flowers.

Singing (tune Pleyel's Hymn) accompanied by band.

Scatter flowers on the waves;  
There our fathers found their graves,  
Brothers, sons and husbands sleep.  
Strew your garlands o'er the deep.

Ebbing tide of summer day,  
Bear these blossoms on their way,  
North and east to bank and coast  
Where they lie whom we love most.

He who marks each secret spot,  
Christ, who shared a fisher's lot—  
He will guard each wave-washed bed  
Till the sea gives up its dead.

—Mary Brooks.

Return to Forbes School,  
Music, "Onward Christian Soldiers."  
"Sweet Bye and Bye."



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# REMAINED IN FOR GLOUCESTER DAY.

## Many Fishing Vessels Sailed This Forenoon on Trips of Various Kinds.

The only off shore arrival here this morning was sch. Mystery from halibut, the craft having 8000 pounds of halibut and about 35,000 pounds of shack. The halibut was purchased by the American Halibut Company.

Sch. Clara G. Silva from Boston brought down 40,000 pounds of mixed fish for the splitters, while sch. Margie Turner which arrived from Portland yesterday had 40,000 pounds.

The gasliners did nothing yesterday to speak of, the only arrival being steamer Jeffery with 24 barrels of porgies.

A large number of the fleet that remained in port for Gloucester Day sailed this forenoon.

### Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

- Sch. Mystery, Quero, 8000 lbs. fresh halibut, 35,000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Sch. Clara G. Silva, via Boston, 40,000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Sch. Margie Turner, via Portland, 40,000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Steamer Jeffery, seining, 24 bbls. porgies.
- Sch. Georgiana, shore.

### Vessels Sailed.

- Sch. Marguerite Haskins, seining.
- Str. Nashawena, seining.
- Str. Philomena, seining.
- Sch. Mary P. Goulart, haddocking.
- Sch. Edith Silveria, haddocking.
- Sch. Annie and Jennie, haddocking.
- Sch. Virginia, haddocking.
- Sch. Ralph Russell, drifting.
- Sch. Romance, Boston.
- Sch. Lafayette, swordfishing.
- Sch. Elk, halibuting.
- Sch. Gov. Foss, halibuting.
- Sch. Hortense, halibuting.

### TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

#### Salt Fish.

- Trawl bank cod, large, \$3.25; medium, \$2.87 1-2; snappers, \$2.
- Handline Georges codfish, large, \$4.00 per cwt.; medium, \$3.50; snappers, \$2.50.
- Eastern halibut codfish, large, \$3.25; mediums, \$2.87 1/2; snappers, \$2.00.
- Dory handline codfish, large, \$3.50; medium, \$3.12 1/2; snappers, \$2.25.
- Georges halibut codfish, large, \$4.12 1/2; mediums, \$3.50.
- Drift codfish, large, \$3.75; mediums, \$3.37 1/2.
- Haddock, \$1.50.
- Pollock, \$1.25.
- Cusk, large, \$2.50; medium, \$1.75; snappers, \$1.25.
- Hake, \$1.25.
- Salt tinker mackerel, \$9 per bbl.
- Fledged halibut, 8c per lb.

#### Fresh Fish.

- Haddock, 70c per cwt.
- Peak and Cape North cod, large, \$1.75; medium, \$1.50; snappers, 75c.
- Western cod, large, \$2.00; mediums, \$1.65; snappers, 75c.
- All codfish not gilled, 10c per 100 pounds less than the above.
- Hake, 70c.
- Cusk, large, \$1.30; medium, \$1.00; snappers, 50c.
- Dressed pollock 80c, round 70c.
- Bank halibut, 9c per lb., for white, 10c for gray.
- Fresh mackerel, 40c for large, 5c per lb. for tinkers.
- Fresh bluebacks, \$2.50 per bbl.
- Fresh porgies, \$1.25 per bbl. for bait; 75c per bbl. for oil.
- Fresh herring, \$1.50 per bbl. to freezer; \$2.50 per bbl. for bait.

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### Mackerel Reported Off Monhegan.

Mackerel have been reported off Monhegan Island, Me., a despatch from that place stating that Capt. Walter Davis took 50 barrels of large fish off there yesterday.

### Mackerel Imports.

The salt mackerel imports at Boston to date is 5304 barrels as compared with 2326 barrels for the same period of last year.

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# T WHARF TRADE OVER THE RUSH.

## Today's Receipts of Ground Fish Normal With Swordfish Plentiful.

It was a little quieter on T wharf this morning than it had been for the past two days, during the great rush, receipts of groundfish being rather light today.

There were no mackerel in the market, the morning's list including six groundfishermen and two swordfish fares. Schs. Elmer E. Gray and Flora L. Oliver had the largest hauls of fresh fish, the former with 57,000 pounds and the latter 44,000 pounds.

Three swordfishermen had 104 fish among them, the Massasoit 55, Julietta 26, and Two Brothers 23.

Haddock was lower than ever, and sold at \$1.50 to \$1.70 a hundred pounds. Large cod brought \$2.50 to \$3, market cod, \$1.75 to \$2; hake, \$1 to \$1.75; pollock, \$2 and swordfish 7c a pound.

### Boston Arrivals.

- The fares and prices in detail are:
- Sch. Flora L. Oliver, 8000 haddock, 35,000 cod, 1000 pollock.
- Sch. Dixie, 900 cod, 2000 pollock, 1 swordfish.
- Sch. Olive F. Hutchings, 26,000 haddock, 4000 cod.
- Sch. Olivia Sears, 400 cod, 1000 pollock.
- Sch. Squanto, 33,000 haddock, 3000 cod, 4000 hake.
- Sch. Elmer E. Gray, 55,000 haddock, 2000 cod.
- Sch. Massasoit, 55 swordfish.
- Sch. Julietta, 26 swordfish.
- Sch. Two Brothers, 23 swordfish.
- Haddock, \$1.50 to \$1.70 per cwt.; large cod, \$2.50 to \$3; market cod, \$1.75 to \$2; hake, \$1 to \$1.75; pollock, \$2; swordfish, 7 cts. per lb.

### Maine Lobsters.

About this time of year one may annually expect the report that the lobsters are becoming scarce along the Maine coast, a statement that the facts do not bear out, except in that there is a diminution of the catch generally and naturally accompanied by an accession of price, says the Bangor Commercial. But the decrease is not due to a decrease of lobsters, but rather to the natural conditions. There are a number of closed seasons now on in this State, some of which have closed temporarily fishing grounds that are among the best.

Another chief cause is that the lobsters are now in hiding to change their shells, a period at which they are always more than usually difficult to catch. A third reason is found in the vacation season. Vacationists are found all along the coast of the State and when they come many of the lobster men change their business for a few weeks. They fix up their motor and sail boats and take out excursion parties, while some lease their boats and their own services for the season. The accession of city people to the coast also increases the local demands for lobsters and prevents so many from reaching the market.

More and more lobsters are being caught annually in the State of Maine and put on the market than for a great many years. The catch of 1910 was a record breaker and that of 1911 held the pace, while there is every indication that the catch of this year will not fall behind. Today the annual lobster catch in this State amounts to about \$2,000,000 to the fishermen, and with the enormous number of young lobsters that are being distributed each year there is every reason to suppose that the yield will increase rather than diminish. The fact that there are certain times of the year when the catch, for various reasons, falls away temporarily does not mean that there are less lobsters. The statistics at the end of the year will find no decrease.

### Shelburne, N. S., Fishing Notes.

Herring have continued fairly plentiful during the past week. The trap of Capt. John H. Thorburn of Sandy Point has so far about 175 barrels. The boats in the harbor are making fairly good hauls.

Tinker mackerel, which are being caught in large quantities in many districts have not appeared in this harbor in any quantities worth speaking about. One Sandy Point boat got about a dozen one morning this week.

Capt. Thorburn's schooner Gladys Thorburn continues to make good hauls off the Prince Edward Island coast.

### New York Salt Fish Market.

There is no change to record in salt fish market conditions in New York, but codfish may be reported easier as the result of continued depression at the principal points of export, says the Fishing Gazette. A somewhat better feeling in the codfish market is reported from Halifax. The weather in Nova Scotia has been very bad for drying, and consequently supplies have not been coming on the market so quickly that buyers could not take care of them, says the Maritime Merchant. As a result there is a little stronger tone for new cure bank fish at the present time, and we hear of some vessels that are holding out for \$4.25, although up to the time of writing we have not heard of any sales at over \$4.

There was little news of the banking fleet to be had last week, but the impression prevails that the boats have done fairly well, as no reports of poor catches have been received as yet. The two new British built steam trawlers belonging, respectively, to the Maritime Fish Corporation and the Halifax Cold Storage Co., are reported to have kept up a steady supply of fish.

The British consul at Bordeaux, France, reported the codfish imports at that city as 21,454 tons in 1911, compared with 36,876 tons in the previous year. The Boulogne steam trawlers brought the first cargoes from Iceland at the beginning of April, says the Fish Trades Gazette, and these were quickly disposed of at £1 7s. 10d. per 121 lb., which represents about £1 10s. 2d. delivered at Bordeaux. Owing to the success of the island fishing, prices gradually fell to £1 3s. 10d. The Paimpol schooners arrived at about the same time, but their cargoes had been sold in January at from £1 8s. 7d. to £1 9s. 4d. per 121 lb., and these did not suffer from the fall in value. The second Island fishing was less productive, and was affected by the large cargoes already received. The Newfoundland fishing gave poor results, prices ruling very high throughout the season, as follows, per 121 lb.: First fishing, £1 7s. 10d. to £1 10s. 2d.; second fishing, £1 7s. 10d. to £1 9s. 4d.; the last cargoes from St. Pierre and Miquelon sold at £1 10s. 2d.

News from St. John's, N. F., dated August 3, says that a few new codfish were offered for sale in the market this week. Some of the fish came from near ports, and the rest from the west side of Placentia Bay. No new fish is expected in any quantity for at least two weeks. The first new cargo of fish will come from Notre Dame Bay, and is now reported on the way. Telegrams from Labrador the past few days report an improvement in fishing.

A Halifax house has just received back from Gibraltar 3000 qtls. of Labrador fish, for which the highest price offered was \$2.40. The fish cost \$4.50 in Newfoundland, where it was packed.

### Fulton Fish Market Notes.

The smacks landed over 1,000,000 pounds of fish at the market during the week ending Friday noon, says the Fishing Gazette. On the last day fish were almost given away, codfish selling at 2 to 3 1-2 cents per pound, hake and haddock being equally low, while sea bass was so plentiful that it could be bought at 2 cents per pound. There were few buyers. Bluefish was also low, the quotation being 6 to 6 1-2 cents per pound, against 6 cents flat on Thursday.

Unfortunately, there was but a scant supply of fish during the first half of the week, consequently prices were high. There was no market cod to be had until Thursday, and neither haddock or hake until Tuesday. The result was that pollock sold at 6 to 7 cents and steak cod at 8 cents during the period of scant supply.

There was plenty of cheap halibut in the market. Western white fish sold at 8 to 10 cents, and Eastern fish at 9 to 15 cents.

### Newfoundland ShiPs Will Pack Fish at Outports.

From all we can hear, there will be a larger quantity of codfish than ever packed and shipped to market from the outports this season, says the St. John's Trade Review. Up to the present only the exporting merchants doing business in the outports have had their fish packed there. Now we hear that several city skippers will have their fish packed where it is purchased from the fishermen, and sent from there direct to market. The alleged reason for this is that labor and fish casks are both very much cheaper in the outports than in St. John's, and that considerable money is saved by having the work done in the outports.

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### A LIVING FISH NET.

#### Method Used by Oceanica Islanders to Procure Food.

A peculiar method of fishing is employed by the natives of certain of the islands of Oceanica.

At stated intervals about 200 of them will assemble on the beach and all together will plunge into the water each carrying a branch of the cocoa palm.

At a given distance from the shore they will turn toward it and form a compact half circle each holding his palm branch perpendicularly in the water thus forming a kind of seine. The leader of the party gives a signal and this living net approaches the shore gradually in perfect order driving before it a multitude of fishes. Surrounded by this living wall and caught in the cocoa palm branches many of the fishes are cast on the sands and others are killed with sticks.

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### Boston Groundfish Receipts.

Fresh groundfish arrivals at Boston last week totaled 2,231,525 pounds from 66 arrivals against 1,939,740 pounds from 53 arrivals in 1911.

### Mackerel Receipts.

Receipts of fresh mackerel to date are 16,426 barrels against 32,614 barrels in 1911.

### Salt Mackerel Catch.

The catch of salt mackerel for 1912 has been 2077 barrels against 5581 barrels in 1911.

### Halibut Sale.

The halibut fare of sch. Mystery sold to the American Halibut Company at 9 cents a pound for white and 7 cents a pound for gray.

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### Lockport, N. S., Fishing Notes.

The swordfish have appeared off Lockport, N. S., and large numbers are being taken and shipped fresh from that port.

The Cold Storage Company has been extending its operations considerably of late. A large extension has been built to this wharf particularly for the accommodation of several gill-netting steamers, which will shortly be in use. One of these boats, to be 60 feet in length, has been ordered from Kenneth McAlpine, Shelburne. The company also intends to place on the Canadian and American markets a new style of package for fresh fish. The package will be made of pressed paper in three sizes, for one, two and four pounds, net of boneless fresh fish. It will be similar to that used for seal-shit oysters.

The fleet of the company has been increased recently, and a further extension is proposed for the immediate future. A glue factory has been in operation for two weeks, and a fresh fish canning establishment thoroughly equipped, will be in operation in a very short time. The additional outlay necessary to provide these increased facilities will be considerably more than \$100,000 and has been estimated at \$130,000. Herring are being taken in large quantities. Traps have within the past few days secured more than 1000 barrels. Fuller particulars will be given shortly.

### Big Mackerel Reported on the Maine Coast.

Big mackerel have hit the Maine coast. Tuesday 20 more barrels were brought in when the sloop North Star landed with about 3000 pounds. They were all big fish and ran from three to better than four pounds each. All were in magnificent condition. Many of them were sold over the side of the schooner, so eager were the people to get them. The fishing steamer Geisha also ran upon a big school of mackerel off Witch rock. The seines were set and just as the fish were being hauled in, the nets caught on bottom and the whole fare was lost.

Large quantities of tinker mackerel continue to be found in the traps at Richmond Island, and the fishermen are confident that before many days the larger sized fish will be found schooling in large numbers along shore.